thousand Tartars engaged in scouring the woods in pursuit of the plant. Each man so employed was obligated to present his majesty two ounces of the best he should collect, and to sell him the rest for its weight in pure silver. At this rate it was computed that the emperor would get in a year, about 20,000 Chinese pounds, which would cost him not above one quarter of its value, at the common rate of selling it.

The collectors of the Ginseng carry with them neither tents nor beds, every one being sufficiently loaded with his provision, which is only parched millet, on which he is obliged to subsist during the whole journey. The mandarins send them from time to time some pieces of beef, with such game as they happen to take, which they eat very greedily, and almost raw. They are accustomed to sleep on the ground, and notwithstanding six months are passed in this way, they continue lusty and in perfect health.

The army of herbalists, in order to scour the country effectually, divide themselves into companies of one hundred each, which proceed forward in direct line, every ten of them keeping at a distance from the rest. In this way they overrun an extensive wilderness in a short space of time.

If any one of the company was wanting, as it often happened, either by having wandered out of the way, or being attacked by wild beasts, the party devoted a day or two to search for him, and then returned to their labour.

The root of the Ginseng is the only part preserved. The collectors bury in the ground every ten or fifteen days all that they have procured. In order to prepare it for use, they dip it in scalding water, and scour it with a brush. The roots are then prepared with the fumes of a species of millet, to give them a yellow colour. The millet is put in a vessel with a little water and boiled over a gentle fire. The roots are placed over the vessel upon transverse pieces of wood, being first covered with a linen cloth or another vessel. When treated in this way they assume upon drying a horny or semi-transparant appearance.

The roots may also be dried in the sun, or by the fire, and retain their qualities perfectly. In this case, however, they have not that yellow colour, which the Chinese so much admire.

The Chinese consider the Ginseng as possessing unequalled medicinal powers, and their physicians have written many volumes upon the qualities of the plant. It is made an ingredient in almost all the remedies which they give to their nobility, its

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